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ABSTRACT

This paper covers the history of the Canton Public/Stark County District Library (CPL), focusing on the years 1929-1997. The paper focuses on the broadening of the library's services, including the development of reference services, service to young adults, and a variety of outreach activities. A literature review discusses the history of the library during this time period in social context. The study is based on information from sources such as CPL board of trustees minutes; CPL annual reports; pamphlets from the library's collection; newspaper articles; interviews with present and former staff members; a thesis written about the library; reports and articles written by library staff; and journal articles and books written about branch libraries and bookmobiles. Topics discussed include: new departments and services at the main library; need for expansion and the struggle to obtain a new building; special services and outreach activities; branches; and bookmobiles. (Contains 227 references and 22 illustrations.) (Author/DLS)

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ED 423 906

ON THE ROAD TO EXPANSION: CANTON PUBLIC/STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY 1929-1997

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Kendel Croston

November 1997

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Abstract: History of the Canton Public/Stark County District Library, focusing on the years 1929-1997. Discusses the broadening of the library's services, including the development of reference services, service to young adults, and a variety of outreach activities. Relates how during the 1960s the library shifted its focus from providing service to elementary schools to expanded bookmobile and branch services. Points out that the library's expanded services created a need for additional space to provide them, then goes on to discuss the library's struggle during the 1960s and 1970s to obtain a new building. Specific outreach activities are then described. Next, there is a short history of each of the nine branches. Finally, the bookmobiles and their service are examined.

Master's Research Paper by

Kendel R.Croston

B.A., University of Akron, 1988

M.A., University of Arizona, 1991

M.L.S., Kent State University 1998

Approved by

Adviser Tony Buttler Date 11-10-17

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

The Soviets launch Sputnik. The space race accelerates. A new emphasis is placed on math and science in grade schools and high schools. More students are using library resources for class projects, and more of these students live in the new suburbs outside of the central cities. Canton, Ohio felt the influences of these national trends. Suddenly, in the 1960s the Canton Public Library (later the Stark County District Library), in Canton, Ohio, experienced increasing demands related to these national changes. The Canton Public Library (CPL) had until the 1960s focused much of its resources on providing library service to elementary school students, at the elementary schools. During the 1960s the CPL de-emphasized school service and expanded its service to the suburbs through bookmobiles, enlarging branches and building new branches. These conclusions are based on an examination of the CPL minutes, annual reports and newspaper clippings about the library from that time period.

The CPL received a grant for a Carnegie library and had moved into a new building in 1905.[1] With larger numbers of people demanding more services from the library, the 1905 building, by the 1960s, could not house adequate materials to meet the community's demands.[2] The library staff and board of trustees began exploring ways to move the library to a larger building. It was not until more than a decade and a half later that the CPL moved into another new, more spacious building.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to discuss the history of the Canton Public Library and its successor, the Stark County District Library, from 1929-1997. This study covers that era because the period of the library's formation until 1929 has been dealt with in another work. The focus of this study is on the change in emphasis from service to elementary

schools to a broader community focus, the related efforts to construct a new main library building and branches, and the expansion of service at existing branches and through bookmobiles.

The library had outgrown the Carnegie building by the 1960s, and the long struggle to obtain a new building is examined. Also, the library's expanded services for adults, which are touched upon in a speech by Paul Noon,[3] are discussed in greater depth, going beyond the changes of the 1950s to the 1990s.

Objectives

The basic objective of this study is to give structure to the history of the Canton Public/Stark County District Library after 1929. This is accomplished by exploring the phase-out of service to the elementary schools and the expansion of branch and bookmobile service. The over-fifteen-year struggle to build a new main library building is also analyzed. These events are related to national trends, where applicable.

Limitations of the Study

The period of 1929-1997 is the focus of this study. During that time period primary emphasis is on the subjects related to elementary school service, the construction of a new main library, and the expansion of bookmobile and branch services.

CHAPTER II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The early history of the Canton Public Library is a subject Norman P. Wetzel has addressed.[4] This work discusses the founding of the library and its early struggles for adequate financing and space. The library's triumph of acquiring funds from Andrew Carnegie to construct a separate library building is an important part of this work. The struggle to obtain funding for the 1905 building is described. In the summary of Wetzel's work, there is a short discussion of later trends, such as bookmobile service and the reemerging need for more space; however, the emphasis of the work is on the period before 1929.

A more limited study of the early history of the CPL is a subject addressed by Elizabeth Fogle.[5] Her work gives a chronology of significant events, discusses services the library offers and circulation trends. She gives insight into the library's philosophy of the time, pointing out that, the "Canton Library follows the modern trend of regarding library service as a business undertaking, to be sold to the public like any other."[6]

Concerns of the CPL of the 1950s can be gleaned from a speech of librarian Paul Noon.[7] Noon discusses the pre-1954 emphasis on children's services in elementary schools and how since 1950 CPL attempted to increase services for adults through purchasing adult reading and reference materials. Noon noted that the creation of a business and technology department at the main library was a significant achievement in providing better service to adults.

The United States was changing rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s. Philip Ennis discusses three major demographic trends that were important for libraries during this time period.[8] The first of these is an increasingly educated population. In 1950, 37 percent of the U.S. population had graduated from high school; by 1960 it was 45 percent. Secondly, the numbers of the elderly were increasing rapidly; there was a 35 percent increase of those over 65 in that same decade. Thirdly, people were moving to the

suburbs, which meant that libraries would need to build branches and send out bookmobiles if they were going to provide easily accessible service for those people.[9] In Canton, from 1946-1962, the population decreased by 2.8 percent, while the population of Stark County increased by 20.2 percent.[10]

Addressing some of the issues of the 1960s, Lewis C. Naylor recommended ways the Canton Public Library could expand its extension services.[11] Naylor summarizes how and where the population of the county surrounding the CPL was growing. Cultural and educational institutions are also discussed, in respect to how the library should provide support for those institutions. Based on his analysis, Naylor recommended the creation of a county wide library system, with the CPL, the largest library system in the county, as its headquarters. This would allow the centralization of technical processing and extension services. He noted that the contemporary lack of coordination among the libraries of Stark County was a disadvantage to citizens because the level of service was very uneven. With a county wide system, Naylor suggested that library service would become more equitable.

The report by Merlin Wolcott and Gladys Anderson follows up on Naylor's work and addresses some additional issues.[12] It is also argued in this "Master Plan" that the Canton Public Library become a district library system, which would be advantageous for the library because it would then have the tax base of the entire county, and would eliminate replication of services, centralize operations, and decrease costs (in areas such as technical processing and outreach). The "Master Plan" discusses the library's lack of space and its negative impact on patron service. Another area in which public service needed improvement was the expansion and establishment of more branches, as well as more bookmobile stops aimed at the general population, instead of just school children. Wolcott and Anderson proposed the building of a new main library, three new branches, and the expansion of three branches.

Wyman H. Jones,[13] Eleanor Brown,[14] and Milton Byam[15] discuss the history and characteristics of branch libraries. Jones notes that in the early twentieth century there were few branches, but, around 1910, branches came to be viewed as the preferred way of offering extension services.[16] Milton Byam notes that many of those early branches were social or association libraries that were later absorbed by a public library.[17] Some branches, from about 1890-1910, were housed in school buildings.[18] Brown discusses the acute need for branches before World War II, because there was a lack of cheap transportation, it was often difficult for people to access the main library in the central city.[19] Often, early branches were located in buildings originally constructed for another purpose, such as fire stations, civic centers, converted residences or abandoned buildings, but by the 1960s, most were housed in buildings designed specifically for branches. Jones, much like Ennis, points out that a primary factor in the demand for increasing library services was the rising educational level of adults in the United States. From 1940-60 educational levels rose more than two years. Teachers were demanding more of their students, such as reading books other than their textbooks. The more highly educated tended to live in the outer core of the cities or in the suburbs and demanded and used branches.[20]

If there was no system to provide service outside of the city limits, often county or regional library systems would emerge. The Library Construction Act of 1964 was important in providing funds to help these systems build branch libraries.[21] Often, service to an area was provided through a bookmobile, before a branch was built.[22] Until the Canton Public Library could construct and expand its branch services, it planned to serve the suburban population with bookmobiles.[23] E.T. Bryant notes that bookmobiles are cheaper than branches and can respond rapidly to population shifts.[24] For easy accessibility branches were often built near shopping centers, in the growing suburban areas.[25] These branch libraries of the 1950s and 1960s were often constructed with meeting rooms, which could be used for story hours, book discussion groups, and

community activities.[26] Often these branches developed into community cultural centers.[27] The branch libraries also tended to experience a relatively high level of autonomy in book selection and programming.[28]

Another trend of the 1960s was the public library pulling its services out of the public schools. Many schools received federal funding to develop their own libraries. By no means did public libraries stop serving students; they simply withdrew from operating public school libraries. In fact, public libraries were experiencing increasing demands from the growing student population for increasingly sophisticated materials. Brown points out that these children needed trained staff to assist them and age appropriate sections within the library.[29] In many localities, the branches were serving more children than the main library. A factor that often pulls patrons into branches is the more accessible parking. In some systems, branches account for 45 percent of total circulation.[30]

Branches and bookmobiles were just part of the efforts of increased "outreach programming" of the 1960 and 1970s. Dem Polacheck[31] and Barbara Herman[32] discuss some of the outreach programs of the Stark County District Library (SCDL). Herman, a children's librarian, describes her method of story telling for mentally retarded children and suggests appropriate activities and book titles for such programs. Polacheck's article mentions Herman's efforts as well as other children's programs, such as story telling to Head Start classes, day care groups and kindergartens, as well as a mini library in a store front that offered story telling, games and finger-plays. For the young adults the library provided a separate department and services to the county juvenile detention center. Library services were also provided to the county jail. Senior citizens received special attention through SCORE (Senior Citizens OutReach Endeavor), which included home delivery of books, delivery of large print books to nursing homes, film programs and a newsletter.

Another outreach program SCDL was involved with was the Ohio BOOKS/JOBS initiative, which assisted the state's unemployed citizens.[33] The goals of the program

included: educating libraries about the unemployed and their needs, encouraging communications between libraries and social services agencies, and helping to provide materials for employment seekers. The program focused on those who could read, and did not address the problem of illiteracy. Participating libraries received a core collection of books and pamphlets, which were mostly practical guides for job hunters. Libraries could request supplemental funds which were based on the number of unemployed person from the library's service area registered with the state bureau of employment services. Although the BOOKS/JOBS program suggested titles to be purchased with the funds, the final decision was left to the participating libraries.[34] Stark County libraries were very involved in the program, including such activities as publishing a newsletter, exploring ways to reach migrant workers, and putting books and pamphlets in "neighborhood centers." The SCDL saw the program as having the positive effect of making more people aware of the library's existence.[35]

Leigh Estabrook discusses other outreach and community library services.[36] Many of the programs, such as branch libraries, bookmobiles, and acquiring books printed in foreign languages for a community ethnic group, had roots going back to the turn of the century. In the 1960s, Estabrook points out, during the "war on poverty," public libraries received significant amounts of federal dollars for community outreach programs. The types of programs that were funded included collections and programs aimed at specific ethnic and socioeconomic groups, small units (which avoided the designation of library) designed to meet the needs of specific groups and "store front libraries." Many of these projects called for coordination between the library and human services organizations.[37]

By the 1970s many libraries were shifting their emphasis from these types of programs to information and referral services and specialized services for senior citizens, the handicapped and business people.[38] Some possible reasons this shift occurred were cuts in federal funding, with experimental programs the first to be eliminated at local libraries, and unresponsive target groups. Many of the programs were aimed at people

unaccustomed to using the library and whose problems were multidimensional. Estabrook argues that these types of programs may have caused tension between library workers and social service workers over who should provide those services, as well as tension between librarians and community members involved in planning programs. Often community members' desires for programming would conflict with what the professional librarians viewed as an appropriate role for the library.[39]

The preceding works provide a context for the development of the post-1929 history of the Canton Public/Stark County District Library. With this background, it will be possible to compare the library's responses to external developments with responses typical of other libraries nationwide. As well, the library's unique or unusual endeavors can be discussed.

CHAPTER III. METHODOLOGY

This historical study is based on information obtained from a variety of sources. Particularly important primary sources were the Canton Public/Stark County District Library board of trustees minutes and the library's annual reports from 1939 to 1989. Other primary sources used were pamphlets from the library's collection and newspaper articles from the *Canton Repository*. There was also an oral history component with interviews of present and former staff members included.

The secondary sources used were Norman Wetzel's thesis, "Mary P. Martin and the Canton Public Library, 1884-1928: A Study in Library Leadership," reports and articles written by library staff, and journal articles and books about branch libraries and bookmobiles.

CHAPTER IV. HISTORY OF THE CANTON PUBLIC/STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY: 1929-1997

The 1930s were a time when the Canton Public Library (CPL) board of trustees looked beyond the needs of the Canton area, and formally made the library's service available to all Stark County residents not served by another library, and, thus, could collect classified property taxes, as a source of library funding.[40] In 1933, CPL began receiving state financial support.[41] With expanded resources, the library became more lenient in its book loan policy in 1938, allowing patrons to take an unlimited number of fiction books and up to five nonfiction books, which resulted in a 4.6 percent circulation increase for the year.[42]

New Departments and Services at the Main Library

Community needs continued to increase and, in 1940, demand was great enough that CPL created School Division and County Extension librarian positions.[43] The School Division produced book lists for children, made presentations at parent-teacher group meetings, and gave teachers updates on the latest children's literature.[44] This service and outreach activities are discussed in greater depth in the section about special services and outreach services. Reference service was of growing importance by the early 1940s. Increased patron demand for reference service resulted in the installation in 1941 of a second phone line to answer telephone reference questions. The reference department, responding to patron requests, concentrated on business and technical books. Eventually, in 1958, a separate business and technology department was created; the primary responsibility of the department was to answer the questions of local business people and companies.[45] It came to be used heavily by lawyers, engineers, accountants and chemists.[46]

CPL also responded to patron demand by creating a genealogy section,[47] and in 1948 a local history section was added.[48] Parents' needs were met in 1943 when the juvenile department started staying open in the evenings so that those unable to come earlier in the day could select books for their children.[49] By 1948, twice as many children's books were checked out during the year as were adult books, 697,706 vs. 261,951. About half, 348,802 of the books, were borrowed through school libraries CPL operated and 237,014 were borrowed from bookmobiles.[50]

Children and parents who attended story hours were heavy library users, and the story hours were so popular that there was not always room for all the children who wanted to attend. A branch of Kent State University had been set up in Canton, and those students also used the library frequently.[51]

It was not just books that these growing numbers of patrons were checking out of the library. Acquisition of nonbook materials was not ignored. In 1949 records began to be circulated and in 1951 the library began participating in a regional film project, providing films not just to individual patrons, but also producing a monthly newsletter listing and describing new films, which the audiovisual department distributed to over two hundred churches, schools and other community organizations.[52] The library circulated the 8mm films until 1984, when they were eliminated because of low use.[53] In 1995, the library sold its remaining 16mm films for the same reason.[54]

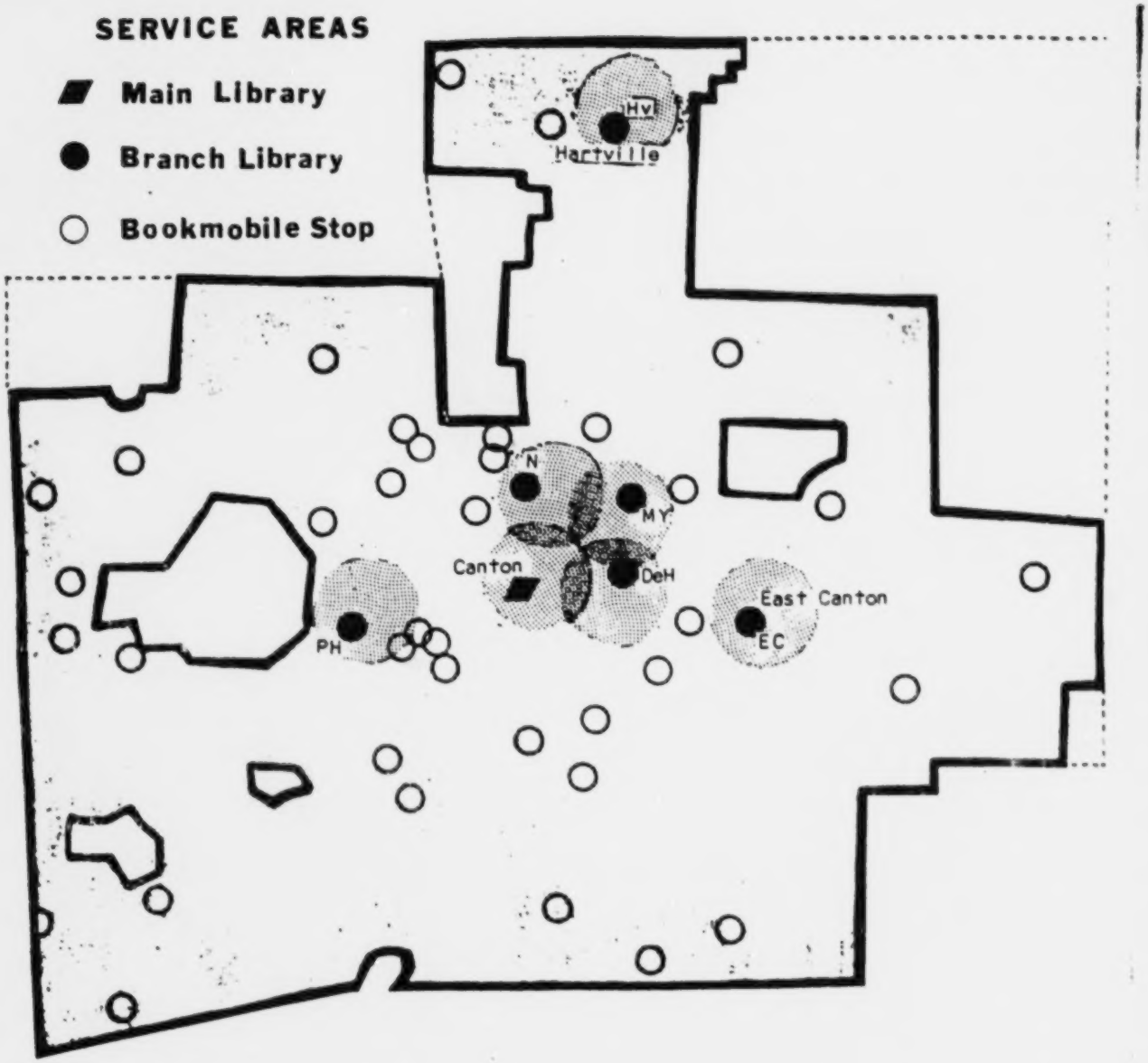
As the 1950s began circulation decreased. Librarian Laura Briesemeister said that patrons told her that they were watching their new televisions and reading less. Also, classes at the Canton branch of Kent State University were suspended for several years, and fewer college students used the library.[55] Patrons were also having difficulty finding a place to park near the library, when they came downtown. To provide greater convenience to patrons, in 1952 a book drop was installed in front of the library, where books could be dropped off, without leaving the car.[56]

In the late 1950s, Librarian Paul A.T. Noon noted that, "[w]hen I came here several years ago, we found that we lost many patrons because our range of fiction was not great enough. We have increased use of our facilities by building up our fiction department and keeping in tune with popular wants."[57]

Young adults were being categorized as a group that should receive specialized service and CPL proposed a young adult department headed by a professional librarian in 1963,[58] but the department, aimed at fourteen to eighteen year olds, was not actually opened until 1968.[59] The area, known as "Our Place," offered a space where students could listen on headphones to popular music. The students could also participate in the Young Adult Literary Enterprise, writing book, film and music reviews aimed at their peers, which were also used to help select titles for the young adult department.[60] The young adults also published *Kaleidoscope Eye*, a magazine containing poetry, short stories and other creative works produced by local students.[61]

CPL was providing services to a large number of people, many of them living outside of the city of Canton. So that CPL would have a legal taxing authority to request money through levy or bond issues, the board of trustees considered becoming a County District Library in mid-1967, and talked with the Massillon Public Library about the possibility of CPL taking over the branches in Brewster and Navarre. The Massillon Public Library responded that it did not wish to relinquish the Brewster and Navarre branches.[62] The board went ahead with its plan to become a County Library District, known as the Stark County District Library.

The Stark County District Library (SCDL) came into existence on 27 March 1971, and all the property of CPL was transferred to SCDL.[63] Its service area consisted of the school districts of Canton City, Canton Local, Fairless Local (excluding Brewster and Navarre), Jackson Local, Lake Local, Perry Local, Plain Local, Osnaburg Local, Sandy Valley Local (portion in Stark County), Tuscarawas Local (portion is Stark County), and Tuslaw Local (see fig.1, p.13).[64]



Stark County District Library service area is 62% of total county and population is 67% of total county.

Fig. 1. Stark County District Library service area (from 1970 SCDL Annual report, reprinted with permission)

To make its resources more accessible to patrons throughout the county, to streamline the lending procedures of the library and to save money, in 1978, library director Wolcott proposed an automated circulation system be installed at the library.[65] A computerized system was chosen in 1980, and installed in 1981. SCDL operated the system on a cooperative basis with the Coshocton, Bowerston, Louisville, Massillon, Tuscarawas, and Holmes library systems.[66]

Since the early 1930s, the CPL/SCDL system had responded to patron needs by adding services and sources, which often required additional library space, so that the library could provide them in an efficient manner. It had moved into the Carnegie building in 1905, and from the 1940s to the late 1970s, a major concern of the library was finding adequate space from which to provide its expanding number of services.

Need for Expansion and the Struggle to Obtain a New Building

The Carnegie building (see fig.2, p.15) was too small to serve the CPL system by the early 1940s. Since 1905, when the library had moved into the building, there had been a fifteen fold increase in the book collection. Not only was there a shortage of space for shelving books, there also was not enough room for patrons to study or use reference materials. CPL wanted to develop new young adult and audiovisual departments, but had to find the space to do so.[67] In the early 1940s, CPL purchased the adjacent Kitzmiller property, and put the County Department into that building.[68] In 1949, CPL, using a grant from the Timken Roller Bearing Charitable Trust, purchased an additional parcel on the south side of the library, which was used for the library's business offices, and gave the library enough space to give the children's department its own area. The back of the property was used to load and unload bookmobiles and trucks.[69]

Fig. 2. Carnegie building, site of Canton Public/Stark County District Library, 1905-1980. (From 1965 CPL Annual Report, reprinted with permission)

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By 1952, CPL was running out of space again. An early effort to make the best use possible of the existing space was to extend the circulation of books to twenty-eight days, which meant that more books were out at any given time, making the shelves less crowded.[70] In 1955, SCDL held a book sale consisting of many of the books that had been placed in storage, but very little shelf space was freed up by the sale because the books had been stored in boxes. By 1956, 25,000 books had been pulled from the shelves and were being stored. These books could still be checked out by patrons, if they asked for them. Most of the titles were duplicate copies and older nonfiction books. Also because of a lack of space at the main library, many of the volumes of bound periodicals were taken to the Madge Youtz branch. If a patron needed a periodical stored at Madge Youtz, he or she could make a request for a specific periodical and it would be brought to the main library in approximately twenty-four hours.[71]

In 1957, CPL purchased another parcel of land, razed the existing building, and constructed the Timken Annex. The additional fourteen thousand square feet housed the extension services and technical processing departments, and provided space for parking library vehicles.[72] As well, the Kitzmiller Annex and children's area were remodeled.[73]

These measures, however, did not prove adequate and, in 1960, one of Director Noon's top priorities was to seek funding for building a new library.[74] In 1965, CPL commissioned a feasibility study for a new main library building, and how CPL could better serve the growing suburban population.[75] Board trustee Merlin R. Schneider said that the library board was "...committed to keep[ing] the library building downtown...."[76] Over the next several years the board requested estimates of the cost of construction of a new building for the main library, and began the search for funding for the building..[77]

In 1969, the sudden 4.95 percent decrease in intangibles tax collection put a halt to explorations of options for a new building.[78] By the summer of 1971, CPL had come out of its financial crisis, and board of trustees president Darrel Mansell urged the board to make its top priority the construction of a new library building.[79] Unfortunately, that fall

Mansell died suddenly.[80] His death may have left a temporary leadership void in the search for funding for the new library, because it was two more years before an architect was selected to propose plans for the new library.[81]

However, once again, plans for the new library were put on hold because the board was unable to locate funding for the project. Board members had approached the Stark County Commissioners about funding, but had been told that the county did not currently have any funds that could be made available to the board.[82]

By 1975, several factors were once again pushing the board to search for funding for a new library. One of those was concern about the safety of staff and patrons in the current structure. An unsettling incident was when a sixteen foot square piece of ceiling fell to the floor. Luckily, only one worker was slightly injured. Other, smaller, pieces had fallen from the ceiling previously. Also, besides the ever-present overcrowding, the Carnegie building did not have handicapped accessible facilities.[83]

Near the end of 1975, the board of trustees sent a letter to the Timken Foundation expressing an interest in locating the library on the corner of Eighth Street and Market.[84] The Timken Foundation responded that it would be willing to donate the Eighth Street and Market property, if the library would find funding from other sources for building construction.[85] The building was estimated to cost $5.1 million and SCDL obtained $4.1 million for building construction through Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment grants from the Economic Development Administration through Canton and Stark County, and the Deuble, Hoover, Stark and Timken Foundations provided an additional $760,000, with the remaining funds coming from the sale of the Carnegie building.[86] Those donations covered just construction costs. The board considered putting a levy on the ballot to generate money for purchasing furnishings for the new building, but decided to pursue other options first.[87] The new Friends of the Library group came forward and pledged to help raise funds for furnishings.[88] Also, SCDL placed a moratorium on book buying to help free up funds for the project.[89]

Actual construction on the building began 9 January 1978.[90] The structure was innovative in that 70 percent of heating and 30 percent of cooling needs were to be supplied from solar energy.[91] The new library officially opened on 4 May 1980 (see fig.3, p.19).[92] The new building provided three times the space of the Carnegie building.[93] During the first eight months, circulation at the new location was about 50 percent higher than during the previous year. There was an initial drop in circulation at the North Branch, but that did not last for an extended period of time.[94]

The most recent expansion at the Eighth Street and Market site, in 1990, was the creation of a parking lot on property purchased with library funds and money donated by the Timken, Hoover, Deuble and Stark County Foundations. The additional parking area was needed because the library's parking deck had structural problems, and water had been leaking into the library building beneath the parking deck. Plans were announced for the area to be converted into an expanded children's department, but this had not occurred, as of August of 1997.[95]

In 1997, the board considered the expanding needs of the SCDL system, and decided to seek, for the first time, a bond levy, not to exceed 1 mill, which Stark County voters would vote on in November of 1997.[96] The board hired the Design Group to provide long-term plans for the library system, which would include a prototype library layout, recommendations for land and space needs, branch specific floor plans and layouts, and estimates of the cost for implementing the plans.[97]

Fig. 3. Stark County District Library, 1980 building (photo by author)

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Special Services and Outreach Activities

Beginning in the 1930s, CPL had a long and close involvement with Stark County elementary schools, placing small deposit collections, which were CPL children's books housed in the elementary schools, at the schools with CPL librarians monitoring the collections and visiting classes.[98] In 1940, CPL created separate schools and juvenile departments, because demands were too great for one department. The Schools Department served Canton city elementary schools and four parochial schools; the rest of the schools in the county were served by the bookmobile.[99] The elementary school libraries were operated on a cooperative basis, with the schools providing the room, furniture, utilities and janitorial service, while CPL provided the books, personnel, and operating supplies.[100] The Schools Department purchased books primarily for students' recreational reading needs, but also some titles were purchased to supplement the school curriculum. The CPL librarians weeded and enlarged the school collections.[101] Each week, a CPL staff member visited the elementary school and provided library service to the upper grades and told stories to grades one through three.[102] CPL also provided service, including some story hours, during the summer at twenty-three elementary schools.[103]

By 1943, the demand for deposit collections was so great that not all requests could be honored. The increase in demand was due in part to increased enrollment in the elementary grades.[104] By the 1950s, the Schools Department provided up to fifteen books for each teacher's classroom. The CPL librarians would help the teachers plan class projects, so that an adequate number of books could be provided.[105] By the mid-1960s, this service was becoming expensive for CPL to provide, and it requested that Canton City Schools pay $1.00 per pupil for library service. The Canton City Schools Superintendent, Gordon Humber, replied that the school system could not afford to pay that amount, and perhaps it was time for the schools to operate their own libraries.[106] CPL agreed to continue to provide library service for free through 30 June 1966.[107] Canton City Schools

established its own libraries in twelve of its elementary schools, but had CPL operate libraries in fifteen of its elementary schools, at the cost of $1.00 a pupil for the 1966-67 school year.[108] By 1969, CPL discontinued school library service, due mainly to the large part of the budget that service required, which had inhibited the library from expanding service through branches.[109]

Besides schools, CPL also provided services at other locations that were not formal branches.. Librarians from CPL made monthly visits to children's and polio wards at Aultman Hospital.[110] They also maintained a small collection at Aultman for use by patients and nurses.[111] As well, patients at Molly Stark Sanitarium received library service one afternoon a week. [112] In 1957, CPL extended service to the Stark County Juvenile Detention Home. CPL provided fiction and nonfiction books, and accepted requests for specific titles. The collection was chosen to appeal to the age group served, and included attractive looking books, and subjects of interest to teens. The collection also included cookbooks for use by the kitchen staff, and books about delinquency for use by other staff members.[113]

Another unconventional type of service offered outside of the main library was the mini-library operated out of two different store fronts on North Market Avenue in 1977 and 1978.[114] The Downtown Commission offered the use of an empty store front for library activities, until the space was rented. The library was responsible for any decoration it wished to do, while the city of Canton would take care of the maintenance of the building. The head of children's services, Sara Lee Donze, was glad to have the space to do programs, which could not be held at the main library because of the overcrowded situation there.[115] The mini-library was open from nine a.m. until three p.m. on Thursdays.[116] Any child accompanied by an adult could come to the library at any time it was open. Many of the children came with preschool, day care, or head start groups. Activities included storytelling, games, drawing, and, of course, reading books. There were not any books that could be checked out, because the staff did not have the

necessary equipment to do checkouts.[117] Approximately 255 children and seventy-five adults used the library during its existence.[118]

To reach people who could not come to the library, CPL started a program in cooperation with Senior Citizen Programs, Inc. and the Boy Scouts of America to deliver books to homebound readers. Requests for items were taken at the main library or the branches and the Boy Scouts delivered and picked-up materials.[119]

Beginning in 1968, another way CPL reached out to people who might not normally use the library was through the Books/Jobs program[120] CPL provided mini-libraries which had materials and programs which emphasized career and consumer education programs. These libraries were located in the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Vocational Planning Center of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, and some service was provided to migrant workers in the Hartville area.[121] The goals of the program included not only making job seekers aware of the services the library provided, but also making librarians more aware of the needs of the unemployed.[122] Because of budgetary problems, the program ended in May of 1972.[123] The books and equipment remained at the Office of Economic Opportunity sites, until they closed in 1973; then the materials were transferred to local libraries.[124]

In the 1970s, SCDL began sponsoring more programs that were oriented to things other than books. "Black Pow-Wow" was an SCDL sponsored program in the mid-1970s, where African American youth met weekly with area professionals to discuss local issues and problems.[125] SCDL also worked on collecting the experiences of the African American community with its "Oral Black History of Canton"[126] project. Interviews for this project were conducted from 1972-74, and the over one hundred interviews were transcribed and made available to the public.[127]

In 1970, CPL offered programs at North Branch for mentally handicapped children, and at Perry Branch for physically handicapped children,[128] as well as having librarians visit these special needs children at their schools.[129]

Senior citizens were another group encouraged to come to the library. On Saturday mornings in 1970, CPL offered crafts and games just for them. Transportation was provided. The programs were done in cooperation with the Northeast and Southeast Community Schools, Office of Economic Opportunity, Operation Positive, Senior Citizens Program, and the Urban League.[130]

In 1975, SCDL expanded services to senior citizens through the state and federally funded Senior Citizen Outreach Endeavor (SCORE) program, which provided large print books to residents of Stark Metropolitan Housing apartments for senior citizens, six nursing homes, and two geriatric centers. Books and books on cassette were also delivered to the homes of senior citizens who were homebound. The North Branch held a summer program series that focused on senior citizen issues The program also provided film programs at the Canton Welfare nutrition sites, and library staff members did booktalks and published a monthly newsletter with information about community and library services aimed at senior citizens. [131] In 1978 the Ohio State Library discontinued its share of the funding, but SCDL decided to provide the funding necessary to continue providing large-print books and books on cassette through its outreach department..[132]

In May of 1987 a literacy center, operated by the Community Education Department of Canton City Schools, was opened on the second floor of the library.[133] It provided books, magazines and audiovisual materials aimed at new readers.[134]

Branches

In 1960 the heads of the adult services and reference departments advocated the building of branches, believing that branches would help alleviate the overcrowding of patrons doing research in the reference area of the main library. They suggested that the branches each have a good basic collection of reference materials.[135] In 1967, CPL phased out its service to school libraries in order to focus on opening community branches.[136] By 1967, there were already five branches open, Madge Youtz, DeHoff,

Hartville, North and Perry. Four more would be opened by 1997, East Canton, Sandy Valley, Community Center and Jackson, and four of the branches would undergo moves or expansions in the same time period..

Crystal Park/Madge Youtz Branch

The Canton Public Library board of trustees decided in June of 1929 to create the first branch library of the Canton Public system in the northeast part of the city. That branch was known as the Crystal Park Branch.[137] Miss Madge Youtz created the Youtz Burns School Library Fund to purchase and maintain books at the Crystal Park Branch.[138] By 1940, the location at 1308 Ohio Ave. NE was too small to serve the needs of the community, and the board and librarian were seeking larger quarters for the branch.[139] In 1944, an adequate location was found at the corner of Mahoning Road and 13th Street NE.[140] The branch moved into the new building on January 5, 1945, and it was renamed the Madge Youtz Branch.[141] The formal opening of the Madge Youtz Branch was held on June 24, 1945. The new branch had one room for children and one for adults, with a total seating capacity for thirty-three people.[142] In 1947, the branch offered programs for mentally retarded children.[143]

Just five years later, the Madge Youtz branch moved again, this time to 2113 14th Street NE (see fig.4, p.26), into the former Christ Lutheran Church. The library purchased the real estate and remodeled the building, including converting the basement into a meeting room.[144]

In the late 1960s, circulation lagged at Madge Youtz, so the library began the Neighborhood Library Program, which was aimed at people, especially young adults and children, who did not use the library. Materials such as magazines, comic books, and paperback books about subjects such as sports, cars and war, were purchased. Also, the branch displayed paperbacks in face-out shelving, and developed attractive displays. The

branch also stopped charging overdue fines on late materials. Staff members offered special programs to draw in patrons. These included tutoring, field trips, a drama club and a career club, a current topics discussion group, games and an area where patrons could listen to popular music in the library.[145]

In the 1980s the branch got some additional positive attention. In 1981 Madge Youtz was air conditioned, although it was the last branch to get air conditioning.[146] Then, in 1982, the branch was renovated.[147] Current Director Johnston has said that SCDL is committed to maintaining its presence in the area of the Madge Youtz branch.[148]

DeHoff Branch

In 1938, A.J. DeHoff proposed to the Canton Public Library board of trustees, that he would be willing to bequeath property to the library on the condition that it be used as a branch library.[149] The trustees accepted the donation from A.J. DeHoff of a house and money to be used for the maintenance of the Andrew J. and Mary A. DeHoff Memorial Library, located at 216 Hartford Ave. SE, in Canton (see fig.5, p.26).[150]

The trustees decided to allow two people to live in the upstairs of the DeHoff branch rent free in return for their services in maintaining the branch.[151]

Just a few years after the DeHoff branch opened, head librarian Briesemeister expressed concern that circulation was low at the branch. She believed that the community might use the branch more if it were remodeled and the book assortment improved.[152]

In the mid-1960s, the staff of the DeHoff branch made an effort to acquaint young children with the library. A children's librarian held a story hour for four-year-olds at the nearby Hartford School, and then brought them to DeHoff to checkout books. Students from Malone College also helped the children's librarian with the story hours.[153] In 1967 the DeHoff branch underwent remodeling, which included the installation of air conditioning, and it reopened on 5 April 1967.[154]

In the 1970s and early 1980s the DeHoff branch was the site of the Sesame Street

Fig. 4. Madge Youtz Branch Library since 1950 (photo by author)

Fig. 5. DeHoff Branch Library (photo by author)

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program, where children learned the alphabet and were provided with snacks. It served about thirty, three and four year olds in the upstairs portion of the branch. The library paid the salary of the person in charge of the program, and it was free to the participants.[155] The library board discontinued the program in 1986 for several reasons, including the fact that the State Department of Human Resources had declared the program to be a day-care center, and the fire department had concerns about fire safety because there was only one exit from the upstairs program area.[156]

During the 1980s, the branch suffered from low circulation, and when the Southeast Community Center branch was proposed, there was some discussion about closing the DeHoff branch. In 1984, the branch manager reported to the board of trustees that about five to ten students from the nearby Hartford school used the branch after school on a regular basis to complete schoolwork, but they rarely checked out books. Only one teacher used the branch frequently. The branch head believed that 80 to 90 percent of the current users would use the new proposed southeast community center branch, the main library, or the bookmobile, if the branch closed. Since the community had learned that the branch might close, more people had been visiting the branch, but circulation was still very low compared to other branches. The library director stated that she believed the library would no longer be serving a segment of the community if DeHoff was closed. Several patrons requested that the branch remain open. Mr. Meacham, a teacher who used the branch, said that the branch was not very welcoming or attractive, and needed to be improved.[157] The board decided to raze the rental property adjacent to the branch to improve the appearance of the site, and to launch a public awareness campaign about the branch in 1985.[158] Circulation did increase during 1985.[159]

DeHoff continued to operate; however, in 1991, the library director expressed concern about continued low circulation at the branch. It was closed for a week in January of 1992 for painting and evaluation of the collection, and a program was developed to try to stimulate interest by the community in the branch and to increase circulation.[160]

Hartville Branch

Before there was a Hartville Branch, there was a Hartville Friends of the Library group. In October of 1959, a delegation of the Friends group attended a Canton Public Library board meeting to lobby members for the establishment of a branch in Hartville.[161] The Hartville Tri-Sesqui Junior Women's Club had helped to create the Friends group, and was very involved in raising money to furnish the branch.[162] There was no immediate action, but the Friends group did not give up, and in June of 1960 they showed the board how committed they were to obtaining a branch with the funds they had raised, a total of $4,720 and $1.600 in pledges.[163] At the July board meeting, $15,000 was budgeted to establish a branch in Hartville.[164] By November, two basement rooms at 136 Sunnyside St. NW (see fig.6, p.29) had tentatively been selected for the branch.[165] The branch was originally open thirty-one hours a week, with a staff of two people and a collection of 8,476 books.[166] In October of 1962, because of heavy patron usage, the branch was open forty hours a week.[167]

In 1974, the Hartville community discussed building a new community center, and approached the library board about locating the branch in the center, and contributing to construction costs. The board responded that its current priority was finding funding for a new main library, and it would not be able to be involved in the community center project at that time.[168]

Patron use at the branch increased, circulation had risen 18 percent during 1976, and the book collection had grown from 5,598 to 15,891 over the last ten years.[169] The board recognized that the branch needed larger quarters, and although participation in the Community Center project was beyond the board's finances, it pursued several other options. The first attempt was to rent the vacated IGA store.[170] This did not work out, so the board requested Community Block Grant funds from the Stark County Regional Planning Committee to construct a new building.[171] This request was not granted, so the

Fig. 6. Site of the Hartville Branch, 1960-1977 (photo by author)

Fig. 7. Hartville Branch since 1977 (photo by author)

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board decided to lease the former fire department social hall space adjacent to the Hartville Volunteer Fire Department.[172] The branch moved into its new quarters at 411 E. Maple Street in March of 1977 (see fig.7, p.29).[173] Once again, the Hartville Friends of the Library raised money for furnishings for the branch.[174]

In 1992, there was again some interest in moving the branch into larger quarters. A possible location, a former union hall, was mentioned, but the board did not want to purchase the building. If a buyer for the building could be found, the board was interested in leasing the building, but this never occurred.[175] In 1993, there was still some discussion of finding a location with more space for the branch, but as of 1997, the branch was still located at 411 E Maple.

North Branch

A branch for Northwest Canton was first discussed by the library board in July of 1961.[176] Heavy use of the bookmobile in the area justified the opening of a branch. The board had also received a request to place a branch in the new Glenwood High School, but it decided that since it was already planning to open a branch in the northwest area, that it would better serve patrons than a branch in the high school.[177] CPL purchased the property at 25th Street NW and Logan and a donated house was converted into the North Branch (see fig.8, p.31).[178] The branch was opened in November of 1962 with approximately 8,000 books. Before opening day was over, the staff ran out of juvenile card applications because of high demand.[179]

In just a few years, the existing structure was unable to provide adequate space to meet patron demand.[180] Based on the "Extension Services of the Canton Public Library, 1964" survey completed by Lewis Naylor, the board decided to give priority to the construction of a new branch.[181] The Library Services and Construction Act, Title 1, provided a significant portion of the funds needed for construction.[182]The new branch was opened on 19 February 1967 (see fig.9, p.32).[183]

Fig. 8. North Branch, 1962-1967 (from CPL 1965 annual report, reprinted with permission)

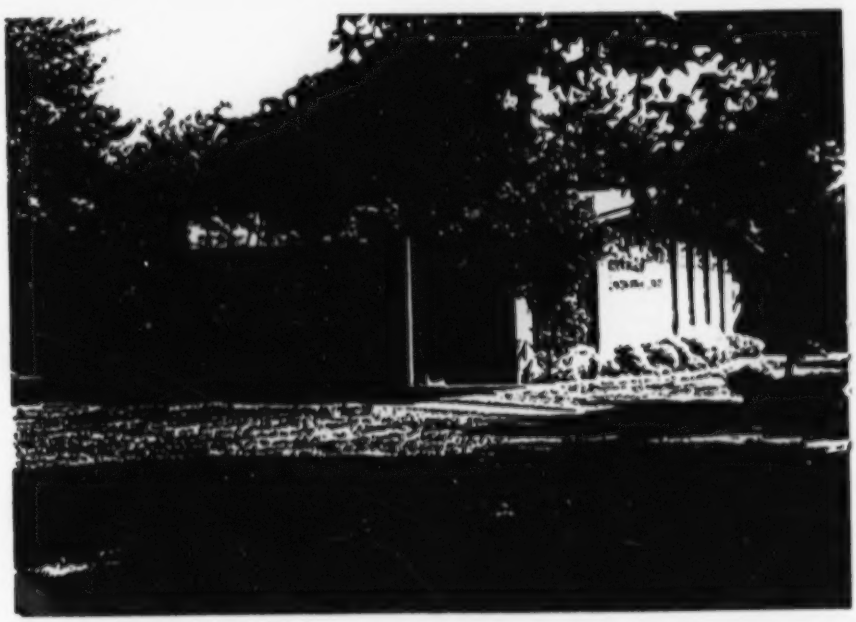

Fig. 9. North Branch since 1967 (photo by author)

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Perry Branch

The earliest proposal for a branch for the Perry Township area was in 1943, for a branch in the Crescent Gardens Housing Project, but no branch was ever constructed there.[184] The subject of a Perry Township branch did not resurface until 1962.[185] In October of that year, the Perry Township Board of Education proposed donating land for the branch.[186] One board member did express concern about the branch becoming too closely associated with the schools, but he did not know of a better location for it.[187] The head librarian, Merlin Wolcott, said that heavy use of bookmobile service indicated a need for a branch in the area, and cited the Hartville Branch as setting a precedent for branch service outside of the city of Canton.[188] Perry Township citizens very much wanted a branch, and in the 1963 budget the board included funding to construct the building.[189] The Stark County Budget Commission contributed $3,500 towards construction.[190] The branch was to be known as the West Branch of the Canton Public Library.[191] However, the Massillon Public Library already had a West Branch, and believed that the two branches might be confused, so it requested CPL to not name the new branch the West Branch. The board concurred that there might be some confusion between the two branches, and renamed the proposed branch the Perry Heights Branch.[192]

There was a short delay in building the branch, when the original site in front of Edison Junior High School was found to be unsuitable because the foundation would be costly to build there. The Perry Local Board of Education then donated an alternate site nearby, between the high school and junior high school, which was suitable for construction.[193] The branch was finished in November of 1964 (see fig.10, p.34).[194]

In 1983, the board proposed expanding the branch.[195] While the branch did need more space for books and programs and an addition had been considered for about two years,[196] a decisive factor in proceeding with the expansion at that time was a serious problem with the roof leaking.[197] The proposed addition would almost double the size of the branch, and would contain a meeting room, a children's area, and a study area for

patrons, and a staff lounge and work area.[198] The expansion was to provide adequate space for the branch for the next ten to fifteen years, and branch facilities would be handicapped accessible.[199] Stark County Improvement Funds contributed $300,000 for the addition, since the library was unable to get federal Department of Education grants.[200] The expansion project was completed in December of 1986 (see fig.11, p.34).[201]

East Canton Branch

About sixty people from Osnaburg Township, which includes East Canton, attended the CPL board of trustees meeting in November of 1962, to request that a branch library be built in their area.[202] It took several years, but, in 1965, CPL budgeted money for fiscal year 1967 for the creation of an East Canton Branch.[203] However, in early 1966, bookmobile circulation decreased by 43 percent, which caused concern about how much the community would support a branch in the area.[204] Plans for the branch did go ahead, and it was opened on June 28, 1967, in the former Kress IGA grocery store (see fig.12, p.35).[205]

The branch remained at that location for more than twenty-five years. When the community proposed building a community center in 1992, SCDL decided to relocate the branch to the new center;[206] helping to push the library into new quarters was the fact that there were problems with the roof leaking at the original location.[207]

The branch moved into the new community center building in May of 1993 (see fig.13, p.35). The branch was now across from East Canton School and had the advantage of a large parking lot, where at the former location there had been only limited street parking.[208]

Fig. 10. Perry Heights Branch, before 1986 expansion (from CPL 1965 annual report, reprinted with permission)

Fig. 11. Perry Heights Branch, after the 1986 expansion (photo by author)

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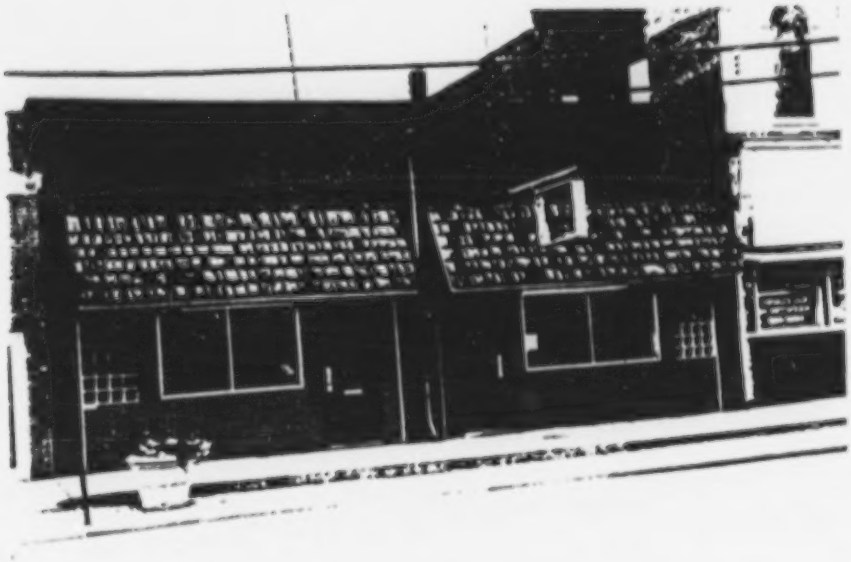

Fig. 12. Location of East Canton Branch until 1993 (photo by author)

Fig. 13. East Canton Community Center, site of the East Canton Branch since 1993 (photo by author)

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Sandy Valley Branch

The Sandy Valley School District in southern Stark County made a request to the board for a library branch in 1961, but the board rejected the request because there was not a significant population in the area.[209] The next community group to seek a library branch for the area was the Sandy Valley Junior Women's Club in 1965. Librarian Wolcott met with members and explained that, although the library administration recognized the need for a branch in the area, it would not be able to put a branch in the community in the near future.[210] In the early 1970s, when the Sandy Valley School District constructed its new high school, it once again contacted the board about the possibility of putting a branch for the area in the new school building. The Sandy Valley Junior Women's Club, East Sparta Women's Club, and Waynesburg Lions also requested that a branch be established in the area. SCDL agreed to provide services to the public, which would include Saturday evening and summer hours, at the facilities available at Sandy Valley High School.[211] Since the high school was in Tuscarawas County, SCDL requested and was granted permission from the New Philadelphia- Tuscarawas County Library to provide services at the school (see fig. 14, p.37).[212]

By the early 1990s, the branch had outgrown the Sandy Valley High School location and the school needed the space that the branch was occupying, so the branch moved into a strip shopping center on Route 800, which also put it within Stark County limits, within the service area of SCDL.[213] The lease for the branch became effective in May of 1991, but extensive interior work to adapt the building for library needs had to be done, so the branch did not open until July of 1991 (see fig. 15, p.37).[214] When it was time to move the library to the new location, the staff encouraged patrons to check out large numbers of books. Then the remaining books from the old location were moved to the new location in a Sandy Valley school bus and volunteers' cars and trucks.[215] At the new location, circulation increased[216] and several patrons noted that they felt more comfortable using the branch, since it was no longer located inside the school.[217]

Fig. 14. Sandy Valley High School, site of the Sandy Valley Branch until 1991 (photo by author)

Fig. 15. Site of the Sandy Valley Branch Library since 1991. (photo by author)

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Community Center Branch

The United Way approached the SCDL board about putting a library in a community center proposed for the Crenshaw Park area.[218] The board decided to put a library in the proposed Southeast Community Center, which would replace the DeHoff Branch.[219] However, while a branch was placed in the Southeast Community Center, the DeHoff branch was not closed, because, as discussed in the section about that branch, several patrons in the community were opposed to the elimination of the branch. The Community Center branch opened May 28th, 1985 in the Canton Urban League Community Center (see fig.16, p.38).[220] Because of concern for area students who did not have adult supervision at home after school, a latch key program was started at the branch in 1989, but it lasted only one year[221]

Fig. 16. Community Center Branch (photo by author)

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Jackson Branch

As early as 1963, the Jackson Local School District was sending a representative to the CPL board meeting to inquire about the possibility of a branch library in a Jackson school. Upon the recommendation of the head librarian, CPL denied the request, "by reason of policy."[222]

In 1975, Jackson township residents from the Lake Cable area requested a branch, and board member Gordon Ross had also proposed locating a branch in Jackson township.[223] SCDL decided to contact township trustees about potential financial assistance for a branch in the area, because bookmobile use was very high.[224] Jackson Township trustees responded that, while they supported the establishment of a branch in the township, they would not be able to provide any financial assistance.[225] The board decided that at that time it wanted to focus on building a new main library.[226]

In the late 1980s, Jackson township residents once again made an effort to secure a branch for the area. A spokesman for the Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce requested that the board place a branch in Jackson township.[227] The board of trustees and library director Johnston noted that the Lake Cable bookmobile stop had very high circulation, and that the population had increased in the area, and agreed to investigate the feasibility of a branch for the township.[228]

The library committee looking into the proposal for a Jackson branch held an open township meeting in December of 1987, to learn what the community desired.[229] Also, the Jackson Community Improvement Corporation conducted a phone survey to find out if residents wanted a branch library, and, if so, what services they desired. The phone survey revealed strong community support for a branch library, and that it should include a large meeting room and an area where displays of interest to the community could be placed.[230]

In October of 1988 the township trustees outlined plans for a community park, where the Jackson branch would be located.[231] SCDL had announced at the trustees'

October 14th meeting that a branch library would be included in the planned Jackson Township Community Park.[232] The new branch would be on Fulton Drive NW, and would have 15,400 square feet, making it the largest branch in the system, with the potential to expand 7,500 square feet more.[233]

The Jackson Township Community Improvement Corporation made it their top priority to obtain funding for the proposed branch.[234] Other community groups also did their share to raise funds for the branch. Students from Sauder Elementary School collected aluminum cans to be recycled, and earned $800, which was used for landscaping around the library.[235] The community also held a walk-a-thon, with children and adults collecting pledges for walking the Jackson Community Park path. As well, the Jackson Rotary pledged to match, up to $50,000, all community donations made to the branch.[236] The Rotary eventually contributed $115,000.[237] Another big money donor was Guy Cicchini of Cicchini Enterprises, who owns several area McDonald's. He contributed $250,000, saying that "Stark County has been very good to me and my family. We believe in reinvesting in the community."[238] So, while most other branches were funded primarily with tax dollars, the Jackson branch funding was a combination of private donations, community fund-raisers, corporate gifts and SCDL funds,[239] with about 40 percent of the funds coming from the community and 60 percent from SCDL funds.[240]

There is a one room schoolhouse just a short distance from the branch, and the architect used the one room schoolhouse as the concept from which he designed the branch, in order to link the branch to the rest of the community.[241]

To make branch service as efficient as possible, library staff members visited newly constructed branches to learn what worked well for the branches. Using ideas from those branches, and looking at the SCDL branches, it was decided that a large staff work area would help to reduce clutter in the public areas.[242]

In July of 1992 the Jackson Branch opened (see fig.17, p.41). It focused on children's programming, had special resources to meet the needs of business people of the

Fig. 17. Jackson Township Branch (photo by author)

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community, contained four conference rooms and two study rooms, and had a drive-up window where patrons could drop off and pick-up books.[243] The community had expressed a desire for these things, and SCDL had responded to the community by including them in the new branch.

Proposed Branches Never Created and Short-Lived Branches

As the following examples illustrate, not all proposals for branches led to the creation of a branch, and some branch services were rather short lived. In 1930, the board considered the creation of a branch in southwest Canton,[244] and in 1938 the budget included funds for a branch in that area,[245] but that proposed branch was never built, with the nearest branch constructed being the Perry Branch. In 1944, the board discussed opening a branch at Wertz and West Tuscarawas Streets, in the western part of the city. A building was proposed, but the board decided that the rent was too high.[246] In 1941, the board planned for a branch in the Canton Art Institute when it opened;[247] that branch closed in the fall of 1950.[248] In 1946, the board received requests for branches to be set up in the Jewish Community Center and the Mary Cannon Irwin Kindergarten School, but it did not take any action on these requests.[249]

To help relieve the heavy demand on the main library, in 1959 the board considered establishing branches near the Country Fair Shopping Center and at the 30th Street Plaza shopping area.[250] The Country Fair and 30th Street Plaza branches had been proposed as early as 1955.[251] No branch was ever built in the Country Fair area, although the Perry Branch was constructed further west. The North Branch was constructed not too far from the 30th Street Plaza area.

In 1963, when Uniontown requested a branch, the SCDL board said that bookmobile circulation in the area did not warrant the creation of a branch there, so it tabled the request.[252] Community members requested a branch again in 1964, but because of lack of funds, the board refused the request, but planned to improve bookmobile

service.[253] Service was also requested for Loren Souers Junior High School, and Librarian Wolcott pointed out that there were no available funds to provide this service, so the request was denied.[254]

Besides lack of funding, a proposed branch might also be rejected for other reasons, such as the request by the Canton Planning Commission for a branch in the Washington School Urban Renewal area. The board pointed out that the area was only one mile from the main library and one mile from the Madge Youtz Branch, which were available for use by members of the community. The board did, however, agree to provide bookmobile service to the area.[255]

A more recent request came from the Pride in Plain group to the board in 1991 about the possibility of a branch for Plain township. The request was tabled until after the building and renovation plans underway could be completed.[256] The construction of the Jackson Branch was a major project at that time.

Bookmobiles

While branches provided an important means to extend library services, bookmobiles were important in taking library services to areas not served by the main library or branches.

Initially called "traveling libraries" or "mobile service," bookmobile service was first proposed by the board in 1930.[257] The first bookmobile was put into service in 1933 (see fig.18, p.45), and served a fifteen-mile radius area of Canton.[258] By 1938, the board had decided to expand bookmobile service to the rural areas around Canton, and to purchase a new bookmobile to help to better serve the City.[259] Some of the rural areas served were just outside the borders of Stark County, such as Magnolia School in Carroll County, and although there was an independent library in Canal Fulton, the CPL bookmobile also served that community, because of a request from the Canal Fulton Library Association.[260] In 1939, the Carroll County library began serving Magnolia, so

that bookmobile stop was eliminated and the Massillon Public Library began providing service to Navarre, so the CPL bookmobile stop in that area was also canceled. A stop was added at Jackson High School. In this time period there were some concerns about the high cost of operating bookmobiles.[261]

The bookmobile service expanded in 1940 with the purchase of a new bookmobile. With the addition, bookmobiles could stop more places, and spend more time at their stops.[262] In 1941, the bookmobiles were providing weekly service to all stops during the school year, while, in the summer, one bookmobile stopped at the city schools and the other covered the rest of the schedule.[263] With the onslaught of World War II, the library faced shortages which made changes in the bookmobile schedule expedient. CPL could not get on a priority list for tire rationing, so the bookmobile schedules were rearranged to reduce mileage and conserve gasoline and tires, as part of the library's war effort.[264]

In 1944, a trailer (see fig.19, p.45), from which books were circulated, and which served as a type of bookmobile, burned, and the library lost 1,200 books in the fire.[265] Librarian Laura Briesemeister made a request to the board for another vehicle, since the trailer was destroyed and one of the bookmobiles was ten years old.[266] The board approved the request, but the bookmobile was not completed until 1946 (see fig.20, p.47) because of shortages of supplies and workers due to World War II. The interior of the bookmobile was constructed at the library. Because steel was unavailable, and it would weigh more, a local woodshop teacher made the bookmobile's shelves of wood.[267] There was both inside and outside shelving which was accessible to the patrons. The outside shelves were covered with panel doors, which could be used to display posters.[268] The bookmobile could carry a total of four thousand books.[269] The state of the art vehicle included eight dome lights and lights in the outside panels to light the outside shelves at night stops.[270] Other special features were the inside shelving at a lower level for children and twelve shelves at eye-level for magazines. One disadvantage to the design was that the outside shelves were high and hard to reach, so they were used to store extra books.[271]

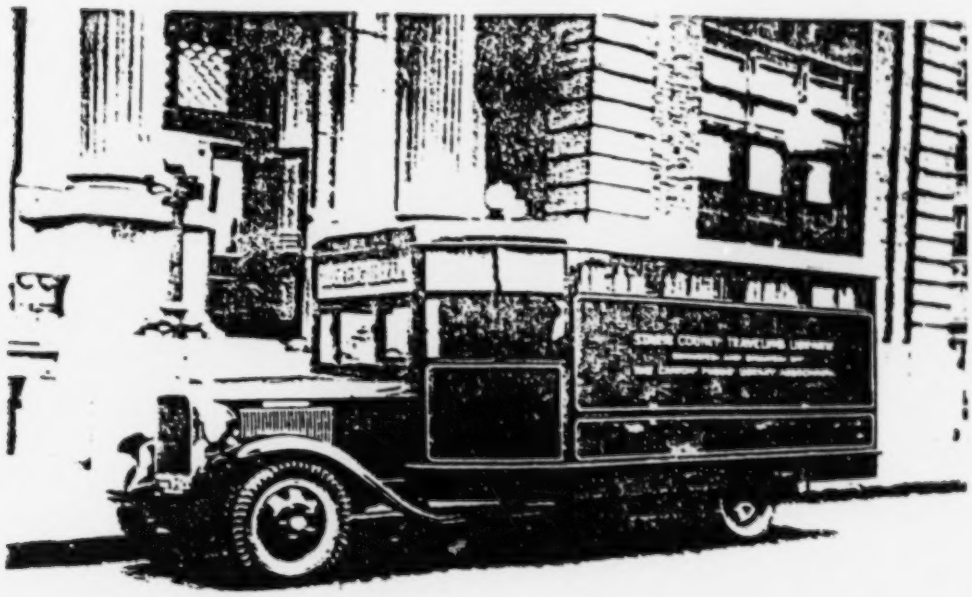

Fig. 18. First bookmobile (from SCDL "Library" file, reprinted with permission)

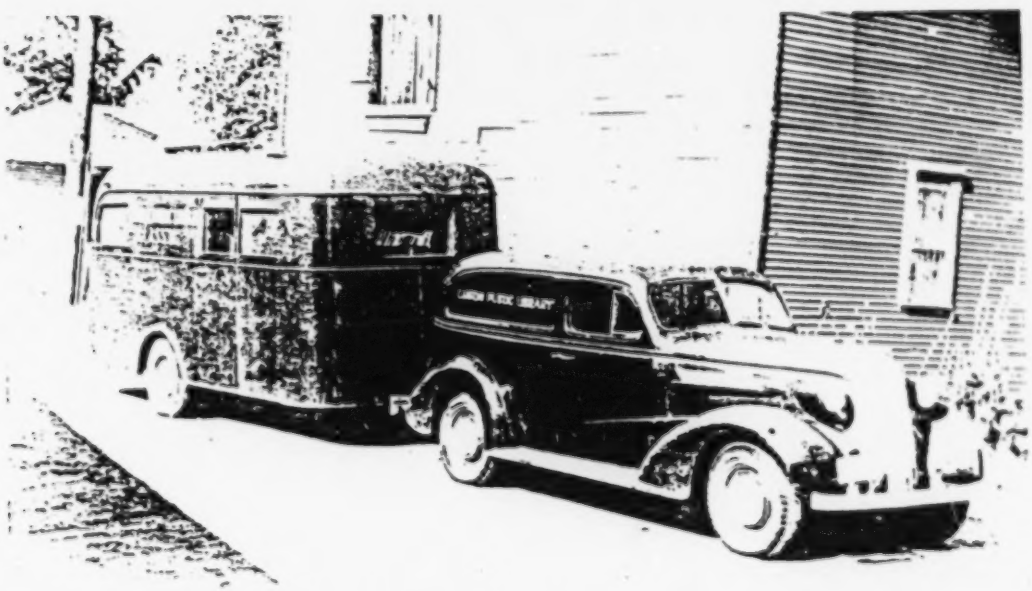

Fig. 19. Trailer, which circulated books (from SCDL "Library" file, reprinted with permission)

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By 1946, even with a new bookmobile, there was a drop in circulation.[272] Much of the bookmobile service was aimed at children, and it was this year that the board began to circulate adult materials on the bookmobiles.[273] The downturn in bookmobile popularity did not last long; by 1947, there were more requests for bookmobile service than could be met.[274] The bookmobiles were making forty-eight weekly and six bi-weekly stops, and provided one hundred and twenty deposit collections in area schools.[275] In 1948, CPL purchased a new bookmobile, which offered not only books to patrons, but also movies.[276] In 1949, the library further updated its fleet with another new bookmobile.[277]

In 1955, the three bookmobiles were put on a bi-weekly schedule, to allow students at the school stops more time to select books. This was necessary because there were increasing numbers of students; these were the babyboomers, so it took longer for the classes to get their books.[278] Operating on an eleven-hour-day schedule, the bookmobile department was handling increased responsibilities, including service to forty public schools, two parochial schools, thirty-two community stops, twenty-three playground stops, and maintaining deposit collections for first through third graders at 243 elementary schools, at two private kindergartens, and two hospitals.[279] Another new bookmobile was needed by 1957.[280]

In 1963, the bookmobiles had sixteen community and seventy-five school stops, and were responsible for 42.8 percent of the total library circulation.[281] Occasionally there were concerns by other local libraries about the extent of bookmobile service. For example, Louisville librarian Mary Louise Lowe pointed out to the board that a bookmobile was providing service to elementary schools in the Louisville School District. The CPL board replied that the bookmobile service was not intended to replace the service given by the school libraries, but to provide recreational reading materials for the students.[282] By 1964, there were three bookmobiles.[283] The next year, 1965, there were

Fig. 20. Bookmobile purchased in 1946 (from Lewis C. Naylor, "Canton Utilizes New Ideas for Routine Operation")

Fig. 21. Bookmobiles that operated in the 1980s (SCDL "Library" file, reprinted with permission)

Fig. 22. Kidmobile (SCDL publicity photo, reprinted with permission)

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four bookmobiles, and their most popular stops were those at local shopping centers.[284]

The library bought a new bookmobile in 1974, equipped with an inside/outside stereo speaker system and eight-track tape player.[285] This was about the time that children's programming became a significant part of bookmobile service, and staff used the equipment to make announcements, especially to let the children on the playgrounds at schools know that the bookmobile had arrived.[286] In 1975, bookmobiles started circulating records to patrons, with a collection of about thirty on each bookmobile, and the collections rotated to provide patrons with a wider variety of titles.[287] Although bookmobiles were aimed at providing recreational reading, the library reported that many teachers and students were using them for school assignments.[288]

The bookmobiles were important in providing deposit collections for many area classrooms. About fifty books made up a deposit collection, and most of the collections were placed in first or second grade classrooms for the entire school year.[289]

Bookmobile stops were added based on patron requests and at new housing developments, while stops with low circulation were eliminated. In some areas, the bookmobiles practiced "roving stops," which were several bookmobile stops just a few blocks apart. These neighborhood stops attracted many children, and the "roving stops" meant that the children did not have to cross busy streets to get to the bookmobile.[290]

SCDL purchased a new bookmobile in 1986. That year, service was extended to southeast Massillon, on an "at cost" basis. Originally, two stops were tried on an experimental basis, but only one stop received enough patronage to be continued.[291]

In 1995, a new concept for bookmobile service was proposed called the kidmobile (see Fig.22, p. 47). This service would be aimed at preschoolers, kindergartners, and their teachers. Although the library had hoped to purchase a kidmobile, the cost was too high; so it began leasing one in 1996.[292] As bookmobiles put deposit collections in elementary schools, the kidmobile puts deposit collections in preschools.[293]

Special audience bookmobiles may be the emerging trend for bookmobiles. Director Johnston has said that she sees the need for a senior citizen oriented bookmobile, and that the demand is great enough that a second kidmobile could be used in the county.[294]

CHAPTER V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From 1929 to 1997, the Canton Public/Stark County District Library (CP/SCDL) system expanded its service area through the building and expansion of branches, an increasing variety of bookmobile stops, and outreach activities. However, other independent libraries continued to exist in the county, and Lewis C. Naylor's recommendation that a single countywide library system be formed[295] was never adopted. CPL did follow the national trend of withdrawing its services from the public schools in the 1960s and shifting its focus to suburban community service.[296]

The manner in which CP/SCDL established branches was similar to what was happening elsewhere in the United States. Most branches were established after 1910,[297] and CPL established its first branch, Crystal Park/Madge Youtz, in 1929. Most branch libraries, until the 1960s were in buildings constructed for other purposes,[298] and this was true for the first four CPL branches, Crystal Park/Madge Youtz, DeHoff, Hartville, and North. Like other libraries, until CPL could provide a branch for an area, it used bookmobiles to provide library service to communities.[299]

One area CPL was ahead of its time in was its service to the business community. While many libraries did not start specialized service to this group until the 1970s,[300] CPL had created a separate business department in 1958.[301]

Extension services are still an integral part of the SCDL system, and expansion of those services is a possibility.[302] There are some remaining areas, such as Plain Township, that are not served by branches, and community members have expressed an interest in obtaining a branch for the area.

However, the expansion of technology related services is playing an ever increasing role in library service. Many patrons are interested in access to the most technologically advanced materials and services,[303] and the development of services in this area will also require a significant amount of library resources. Extension services of the

future may well be provided as often through a computer as through a bookmobile or branch. Bookmobiles and branches will be important in providing not only the traditional services, but also access to new technology.

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[287]"Bookmobiles to Offer Pick of New Platters," *Canton Repository*, 30 Nov. 1975, n.p.

[288]SCDLAR, 1979, [5-6].

[289]Thomas Dick, 27 Aug. 1997.

[290]Ibid.

[291]SCDLBTM., 15 July 1986, and 18 Nov. 1986.

[292]Ibid., 19 March 1995, 23 April 1995, and Johnston, 21 Aug. 1997.

[293]Johnston, 21 Aug. 1997.

[294]Ibid.

[295]Naylor, "Extension Services."

[296]Brown, 46-47.

[297]Jones, 15.

[298]Ibid., 402.

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